

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIE-00 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 SS-15

NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 OIC-02

SAB-01 SAM-01 DODE-00 PM-04 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3715

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 25477

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: 98TH EXB: SAUDI ARABIAN OPPOSITION TO UN-  
ESCO EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP RESOLUTION

REF: STATE 232315

1. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR VAN USSEL INFORMED PERMREP THAT SAUDI ARABIAN PERMREP AND MEMBER UNESCO EXBD, M. H. ALKHOWAITER SAYS HE HAS INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOSA TO ACTIVELY OPPOSE ANY RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD CHANGE OR MODIFY ACTION TAKEN AT 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE RE ISRAEL AND WILL, ON BASIS THESE INSTRUCTIONS ACTIVELY AT EXBD OPPOSE RESOLUTION RE REGIONS CONTAINED REFTEL.

2. ALKHOWAITER SAID GOSA INTENDED NO ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ASSIST US IN MEETING CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE AS CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO IS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION WHICH US MUST MEET.

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3. PERMDEL REQUEST EFFORT BE MADE MODERATE SAUDI INSTRUCTIONS TO AT LEAST PASSIVE RATHER THAN ACTIVE OPPOSITION.

4. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO NOTE TO GOSA THAT IT OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ARAB LEAGUE EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION (ALESCO) HAD APPARENTLY ADOPTED STANCE AT ALESCO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING IN JANUARY WHICH REAFFIRMED NEED FOR UNESCO TO OBSERVE NOV. 1974 GENERAL CONFERENCE DECISIONS, I.E. SANCTIONS RESOLUTION ON JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS. HOWEVER, ALESCO MEETING INTENTIONALLY AND SPECIFICALLY PRECLUDED ANY REFERENCE TO ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN UNESCO EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP--APPLICATION FOR WHICH REJECTED AT GENERAL CONFERENCE--ON BASIS THIS NOT CONSIDERED AN "ARAB ISSUE."

5. FOREGOING REITERATED TO PERMDEL ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN CONFIDENCE BY ALESCO PERMREP (SOROUR, EGYPTIAN) WITH OBSERVATION US COULD DRAW APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS RE FEASIBLE INITIATIVES ON CORRECTING UNESCO-ISRAEL IMPASSE FROM THIS INTENTIONAL OMISSION OF ISRAEL-UNESCO EUROPEAN REGIONAL ISSUE IN ALESCO DECISIONS.

6. FURTHER THERE HAS BEEN INTENSIVE BEHIND SCENES EFFORT MOBILIZED BY DAHOMEYAN BOARD MEMBER, CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF UNESCO DG M'BOW, FOR PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION TEXT CONVEYED REFTEL. LOBBYING EFFORTS, ACCORDING SENEGALESE DEPUTY PERMREP, HAVE SUCCEEDED IN GAINING ASSENT OF OTHER ARAB BOARD MEMBERS (EGYPT, MAURITANIA, TUNISIA, AND SYRIA). ASSENT REPORTED TO EXTEND, IN SOME INSTANCES, TO FAVORABLE VOTE.

7. RESOLUTION BEING PUSHED THEREFORE BY AFRICANS AS WELL AS BELGIANS AND OTHER WEO'S AS PASSAGE SEEN AS OF INDIRECT, BUT POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT AID TO FINDING WAY OUT OF CURRENT IMPASSE FOR UNESCO AND ITS SENEGALESE DIRECTOR GENERAL WHO ALSO A DEVOUT MOSLEM.  
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